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People watch Colonel Gaddafi make his speech live on Libyan television

## LIBYAN LEADER REFUSES TO GIVE UP

On 22nd February Muammar al-Gaddafi, the leader of Libya, made a 75-minute speech shown live on television. Mr Gaddafi, better known as Colonel Gaddafi, was angry. He shouted at the camera that he will never run away from his country, and would rather die a martyr in Libya than leave.

The night before, in Tripoli, Libya's capital city, there was a rumour that Colonel Gaddafi had left and was flying to Venezuela. Many believed the man who had run Libya for the last 41 years had finally fled, especially as he and Hugo Chávez, the president of Venezuela, are known to be good friends. Thousands of people in Tripoli came out onto the streets of the city to celebrate. Yet soon afterwards soldiers who support the Libyan leader began shooting at them.

Later, Colonel Gaddafi made a brief appearance on the government-controlled

television channel. Holding an umbrella and leaning out of a vehicle, he said he was not on his way to Venezuela but still in Tripoli.

Libya was once an Italian colony. It became an independent nation in 1951. Then King Idris the First led the country. In 1969 Colonel Gaddafi seized power while the King was away on a trip abroad. At the time Colonel Gaddafi was a 27-year-old army officer. Most people thought his leadership would not last. Yet he has become one of the longest-serving leaders in the world.

Colonel Gaddafi has run his country as a dictator. There are no democratic elections and opposition political parties are not allowed. Colonel Gaddafi lives in a traditional Bedouin tent and often wears brightly coloured military uniforms. He is guarded by a specially trained group of female bodyguards.

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The trouble in Libya began at the beginning of February. It started in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, in the east of the country. People were angry because a local lawyer had been arrested. But they were also encouraged by what has recently happened in Tunisia and Egypt. There large street protests forced the unpopular presidents of the two countries to flee or to stand down. People living in Benghazi arranged their own large demonstration in the city on 17th February.



Many people in Libya have the same complaints as those in Tunisia and Egypt do. Young people find it difficult to get jobs. They say the police force, which is accused of arresting people for no reason and torturing prisoners, has too much power. And they want to be able to democratically elect their own leaders. They also say those running the country have made themselves rich through dishonesty and corruption.

Foreign news reporters are not allowed in Libya, so it has been difficult for people in other countries to find out what has been happening. In Benghazi fighting soon broke out between the demonstrators and members of the army and police. Yet many of the soldiers decided to join the protesters. Those supporting Colonel Gaddafi withdrew. The protesters are now thought to control Benghazi and the whole of the eastern part of Libya.

After Benghazi, protests began in Tripoli. There, soldiers loyal to Colonel Gaddafi opened fire on the protesters who had gathered in the centre of the city. Nobody knows for sure, but it's believed that hundreds of people have been killed. One of Colonel Gaddafi's sons, Saif al-Islam, spoke on live television on 20th February. He warned the protesters to stop or there would be a civil war in the country.

Later air force jets began attacking parts of Tripoli. Yet two pilots said they could not obey the orders they had been given to bomb the city. Instead they flew their planes to the island of Malta to defect.

Many tribal and religious leaders have announced that they are now on the side of the demonstrators. Some senior military leaders and the troops they command have also changed sides. Many Libyan officials working in other countries have declared that they too want Colonel Gaddafi to go.

Libya is a large oil-producing country. Much of its oil is sold to European countries. There are many foreigners working in the oil and construction businesses in the country. These workers' own countries, such as Ukraine, France, Bulgaria, Turkey, South Korea, Russia, the USA, and the UK have sent planes and ships to help them leave Libya.

People living in Tripoli claim foreign mercenaries, from other African countries, are doing most of the shooting. They say some are forcing young people to take part in demonstrations in support of Colonel Gaddafi. In his television broadcast Colonel Gaddafi blamed other countries, such as the USA and the UK, for organising the protests. He claimed those taking part were either drunk or on drugs.

Most now predict that Colonel Gaddafi will eventually be deposed. This is because the number of his supporters seems to be getting smaller and smaller. Yet many people in Libya and other countries worry that, unlike what happened in Tunisia and Egypt, thousands of Libyans will lose their lives before there is finally a resolution to the crisis. ■

## GUN VOTE IN SWITZERLAND

A referendum, or vote in which all adults can take part, was held in Switzerland on 13th February. The vote was held to decide whether the country's gun laws should be changed.

People living in Switzerland are allowed to keep guns in their homes. They don't have to have special permission. It's thought there are between two and three million guns in the country, which has a population of about eight million people.

Officials say most of these guns are owned by former soldiers. In Switzerland it is compulsory for young men to do a period of military training. They are encouraged to take their weapons home with them once their training has ended. This tradition dates back to the Second World War (1939 – 1945). If the country had to call up its army quickly, the trained soldiers would be able to bring their own weapons.

Many people in Switzerland believe this tradition is an example of how the country's government is prepared to trust its own people. Yet Switzerland now has one of Europe's highest rates of gun-related suicides. Each year around 300 people either deliberately kill or seriously injure themselves with guns. Gun crime has also been increasing.

## NewsCAST

**YOYO FAILURE** — Do you know how to walk the dog, hop the fence, or loop the loop? Two experts who can do these yoyo tricks wanted to take their hobby a step further. They spent more than a year building a giant yoyo, in the USA. It weighed 3,310 kilograms (7,300 pounds) and was 4.5 metres (15 feet) in diameter. The first time they tried the yoyo out it descended from a crane down a nylon cable, and began spinning at the bottom. The friction melted the cable and the giant yoyo crashed to the ground. The couple say they won't try making another one.

In 2008 the government banned gun owners from keeping ammunition in their homes.

Many doctors, women's groups, church leaders, and organisations that help people with depression and other mental illnesses wanted the law changed. They said it would still be possible for people to own guns. But they would have to be locked up in special buildings, called arsenals, and could only be taken out for military training or if a war broke out.

Others, including many politicians, disagreed. They claim the traditional arrangement shows the country has confidence in its soldiers. They also said changing the law would take guns away from people who are trained to use them, but not from criminals, who would not obey the law.

In Switzerland many villages have gun clubs. These often act as centres where people socialise. The gun club members were also against changing the law, because they said their clubs would have to close down.

In the final result, over 56% of the people who took part in the referendum voted not to change the gun law. ■

## WHY VAN GOGH'S PAINTINGS ARE CHANGING COLOUR

A team of scientists from Belgium claims to have discovered why many of Vincent van Gogh's paintings have changed colour over the last 120 years.

Vincent van Gogh (1853 – 1890) was a Dutch artist. Today his paintings are very valuable, but during his lifetime van Gogh was not well-known. It's said he only ever 'sold' one painting when he swapped it for some food

and other things. Yet his work is now considered to have had a huge influence on many famous artists and even helped to shape how modern art has developed.

Van Gogh was an unusual painter for his time. He liked to use very bright colours, especially yellows. He was able to do this because new types of paint were being invented, made from mixtures of chemicals. One that van Gogh used a lot was called chrome yellow.

Even in van Gogh's time, painters knew some types of paint they used would fade over the years. Yet today art experts have been puzzled why some 19th-century paintings using chrome yellow – such as those by van Gogh – have faded to a dull brown while others have not.

The scientists experimented on some 150-year-old tubes of chrome yellow paint. They also studied tiny flakes of yellow paint from two of van Gogh's paintings. The scientists examined the paint using a high-powered X-ray machine. They now believe that a chemical reaction called oxidation is the main reason for the change in colour.

Both sunlight and ultraviolet, or UV, light, help to start this chemical reaction. Yet the scientists discovered that if two other chemicals, sulphur and barium, were present, the change in colour of chrome yellow was even greater.

These two chemicals were used to make a type of white paint

that van Gogh frequently mixed with chrome yellow to make it look even brighter. This, the scientists say, helps to explain why many of his paintings have changed colour while those of other artists using the same chrome yellow have not.

The scientists say the fading may happen more quickly in higher temperatures. They suggest van Gogh's paintings should be kept in cool dark rooms to slow the effect.

Art experts say the scientists' work has helped to answer several questions. They hope one day it may be possible to restore, or bring back, the colours. Until then, they say, people will just have to try to imagine how bright van Gogh's paintings were when he first painted them. ■



*Sunflowers, by Vincent van Gogh*



## TEENAGE BRAINS

by Anna Grayson

Did you know you have over 100 billion brain cells in your head? You are born with this number, and you have roughly the same amount of brain cells throughout your life. Old cells die, but new ones grow.

In a way, the connections between brain cells are more important than the actual cells. Scientists who study these connections call them synapses. The number of our synapses changes as we get older, yet not in the way you might expect.

As babies grow, hundreds of thousands of connections among their brain cells develop. Babies have more connections in their brains than they will at any other time in their lives. Yet as they become older, many of the connections die away. Scientists call this synaptic pruning.

Scientists think pruning happens because only the synapses you actually need stay. The ones you don't need, or are not used, die off.

An example can be found in the use of language. The English language has an 'R' and an 'L' sound. Yet these sounds are not used in some other languages, such as Japanese. Babies with Japanese-speaking parents therefore quickly lose, or do not keep, the ability in their brains to make the sound of R and L.

The pruning of your synapses continues in some parts of your brain when you become a teenager. In particular, the teenage brain is still developing the ability to see things from another person's point of view, or perspective.

Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and her team at University College London, in the UK, have recently completed some experiments to demonstrate this. Several teenage volunteers took part. They were shown pictures of shelves with different objects on them. Included in the pictures was another person who, because of where he or she was standing or sitting, could not see all the objects. The volunteers were asked to describe which of the objects the other person could see from their perspective, or point of view. This is more difficult than you might think!

Using special high-tech equipment, scientists can see areas of someone's brain working. It's

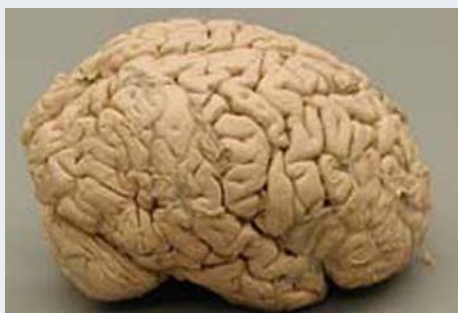
possible to watch parts of the brain 'light up' when someone does a particular activity, or even if he or she just thinks about it. This means scientists can actually see the brain working when carrying out experiments on brain cell connections.

Professor Blakemore set up another experiment to 'record' concentration. This time teenage and adult volunteers used a computer screen. They were asked to look at letters and then sort them into two groups: letters with curves, and ones made up of straight lines. This may sound easy, but when distractions are added, it's quite difficult. Professor Blakemore discovered when young teenagers took part in her experiment their brains appeared to be more active than those of adults when they did the same thing. This, she says, suggests the ability to concentrate is still developing while you are a teenager.

It's also known that teenagers are willing to take more risks than adults. Professor Blakemore is sure this is because of the difference in younger people's synapses. Young children, she believes, find it hard to work out the advantages and disadvantages of making a decision to do something risky, such as climbing a tree. Taking risks can feel exciting when you are a teenager.

However, risk-taking can be dangerous. An experiment using a car driving simulation carried out in the USA showed that teenagers playing with a group of friends took even more risks than when playing alone. Sadly, this seems to happen in real life. Police records show more accidents happen when newly-qualified young drivers have friends in their cars than when they drive on their own.

As a teenager you may be tempted by other dangerous or risky activities, such as drug taking or drinking too much alcohol. As the brain cell connections are still maturing, these substances could have a more serious effect on young people's minds than on those of older people. Professor Blakemore thinks more research is needed to fully understand how young brains deal with risk-taking decisions such as these.



Human brain

## HIBERNATING BEARS

Scientists working in Alaska, in the USA, have been studying the hibernation habits of black bears. They say their work may lead to new ideas on how people can be helped to recover from certain illnesses and how astronauts could travel for long distances in space.

Black bears live in the northern areas of North America. The bears can hibernate for up to seven months every year. The animals eat a lot to increase their body fat before hibernating. During their hibernation the bears do not eat, drink, urinate, or [defecate](#). They survive off the extra fat they have stored in their bodies.

In the past, scientists have studied small hibernating animals such as hedgehogs and mice. Yet larger, more human-sized hibernating animals such as bears, have not been researched in this way before.

For their research the scientists captured several bears. They were then kept in wooden huts made to look like the type of dens bears make to hibernate in. The scientists placed cameras inside the huts and put small transmitters inside the bears' bodies. These transmitters recorded the heart rate, breathing, body temperature and muscle activity of the bears after they had gone into hibernation.

The scientists took recordings of the bears during the five months that they were asleep. They discovered the bears' metabolism slowed down more than smaller hibernating animals. Metabolism is the name given to the chemical processes inside living organisms. These processes control growth, energy production and the [elimination](#) of waste. The bears' body temperatures reduced only

slightly, but their heart rate slowed from 55 beats per minute to about 15. Their breathing slowed down too, so they took about one breath every 20 seconds.

During the time they were hibernating the bears occasionally woke up for short periods. They scratched themselves and rearranged their bedding before going back to sleep. When they eventually came out of hibernation their metabolisms took two to three weeks to return to normal.



Black bear

If a human stays inactive in one position for long periods, and eats and drinks very little, it has a big effect on his or her body. It suffers from a loss of mass, or wasting away of the muscles and bones. But this does not happen to the bears during their hibernation. The scientists are not sure why this is, so they want to discover how the bears' bodies do it. Then scientist might be able to 'copy' the process so humans could do a similar thing.

Doctors say it could be helpful to put people in a bear-like hibernation when they are recovering from an illness where they cannot move about for a long period of time. This would help to stop their muscles and bones from wasting away. Another possibility is space travel. For instance, a return trip to Mars would take at least 500 days. Therefore if astronauts were able to go into a form of hibernation on long space

journeys, it might help them to explore the distant parts of our solar system and beyond. ■

## NEW JUMBO

Boeing unveiled its new airliner on 13th February. Called the 747-8, it is the longest passenger aircraft in the world.

Boeing is one of the world's largest aircraft makers. Its main factory is in Seattle, in the state of Washington, in the USA. Planes were first made at the factory just over 100 years ago.

Perhaps the most famous Boeing plane is the 747. When the first 747 was made 42 years ago it was nicknamed the 'jumbo jet' because of its size. Over 1,400 747s have been sold by the company. This type of aircraft is still used by most airline companies in the world.

The new 747-8 can carry 467 passengers. This is 51 more than the old jumbo jet. The new plane has different wings, a longer body and a redesigned tail. Its engines also use much less fuel than the older version.



Boeing 747-8

Boeing's main competitor, or rival, is a company called Airbus, which is based in France. Boeing is a 'public company', which means it is owned by shareholders – people or companies who buy smaller 'parts' of a company and get a say in how it is run. Airbus is different.

Although it has some shareholders, most of the company is owned by a group, or consortium, of European governments and companies.

A few years ago Airbus launched a new plane called the A380. This plane can carry 525 passengers and is often called a 'super jumbo'. Airbus has sold A380s to many different airline companies. So it's thought Boeing has designed its new 747-8 to compete with Airbus's super jumbo.

Boeing says it hopes that, as with its old 747 aircraft, most airline companies in the world will eventually decide to buy the 747-8. Yet so far Boeing has only received 33 orders for its new plane. Most have come from airline companies in South Korea and Germany.

The company has had more success with the cargo, or freight, version of the 747-8. This does not have any seats for passengers and only carries cargo. Boeing says it has already sold 74 of these, which have been named the Freighter 747-8, or 747-8F. ▣

## NEWSCAST

**TIGER DEFEATED** — A man in Malaysia thought he was going to die when a tiger attacked him. The man was hunting in a jungle area near his home when the tiger jumped on him. The man said he tried to escape by climbing a tree. He wrestled and hit the tiger, but it kept attacking him with its sharp claws. The man's wife heard her husband shouting and ran out of the house to him. When she saw what was happening, she hit the tiger on the head with a wooden ladle she was carrying, and the tiger ran away.



## RAINBOW WARRIOR'S FAREWELL

This year Greenpeace is celebrating its 40th anniversary with the farewell tour of its famous ship, the Rainbow Warrior. The 52-year-old ship is visiting Asian countries. It is being retired after spending 21 years as a Greenpeace ship.

Greenpeace is an environmental protection organisation. It was started in 1971 by anti-nuclear protesters. At this time countries including the USA, Russia, France and China were testing nuclear weapons in remote parts of the world.

The organisation's first protest was to try to stop an American nuclear bomb test on an Alaskan island called Amchitka, in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean. A group of people decided to sail a ship to Amchitka from Vancouver, in Canada. They hoped if they got close enough the nuclear test would be cancelled.

An American navy ship forced the protesters' ship to turn back and the nuclear test took place on the island. Yet news of the voyage was reported around the world. Many people agreed with what they were trying to do. Soon afterwards the American government announced it would no longer test nuclear weapons in this part of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1978 Greenpeace bought an old fishing boat and named it Rainbow Warrior. By this time the organisation had grown. It had several international operations protesting against other things that Greenpeace claimed damaged the environment. These included cutting down rainforests, commercial whaling, and dumping toxic, or poisonous, waste into the sea.

In 1985 the Rainbow Warrior was in Auckland harbour, in New Zealand. It was ready to sail to

the southern Pacific Ocean, where France did nuclear explosion tests on remote islands known as atolls. Greenpeace demonstrators planned to sail to Mururoa atoll, where a test was going to take place. They wanted to land on the atoll to stop the test. But French officials discovered Greenpeace's plan.

While in the harbour the Rainbow Warrior ship suddenly exploded. One person drowned. The New Zealand police discovered the explosions were organised by French agents. The agents had been secretly ordered to sink the ship by the president of France.



*Rainbow Warrior II*

The arguments between the governments of New Zealand and France that followed lasted for many years. The wreck of the Rainbow Warrior was eventually towed to some islands north of New Zealand. There it was sunk to form an artificial reef around which different types of sea life could thrive.

In 1989 Greenpeace bought another ship and called it Rainbow Warrior II. This is the one now on its farewell trip. The voyage has been named the East Asia Ocean Defenders Tour. It includes visits to Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

In Taiwan, people welcomed Rainbow Warrior II's arrival by performing traditional lion dances. While there, Greenpeace protesters projected the words 'stolen fish' onto the side of a tuna fishing ship



in the same harbour. Greenpeace claims the fishing company that owns the ship has been breaking Taiwan's fishing laws. Some protesters chained themselves to the ship's anchor chain, insisting the Taiwanese government investigate the fishing company.

After Taiwan the Rainbow Warrior II sailed to Hong Kong. It will make one final stop in South Korea before being retired.

The Rainbow Warrior III is currently being built in Poland. It is due to set sail later this year. This time instead of converting an older vessel Greenpeace has decided to build its own ship. The ship will have a motor, but will mostly rely on sails and wind power. ■

## NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE

Just before one o'clock in the afternoon on 22nd February an earthquake struck Christchurch, the second-largest city in New Zealand. Some worry that this earthquake will be the worst the country has experienced since 1931. Then an earthquake in another part of the country killed 256 people.



It is only five months since a large earthquake last hit Christchurch. That one measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. As it struck in the early hours of the morning, and most people were at home, nobody was killed

by the falling debris from damaged buildings. At the time John Key, the country's prime minister, said it was a miracle that no lives were lost.

The latest earthquake had a magnitude of 6.3, so it was smaller than the one five months ago. Yet it was far more damaging. Experts said this was because its epicentre was nearer to the middle of the city and much closer to the surface of the ground.

New Zealand is on what is known as the 'Ring of Fire'. This fault line runs around the edge, or rim, of most of the Pacific Ocean, where several of the Earth's tectonic plates meet. These huge plates are continually moving. Earthquakes frequently occur where the plates dip below, push against or rub alongside each other. New Zealand is close to the fault boundary between the Pacific and the Indo-Australian Plates. The country has around 14,000 earthquakes every year. However, most are small earth tremors that cause little or no damage.

As the earthquake struck on a Tuesday lunchtime, many people were walking on the city's streets or were in offices and shops. Some were killed as the fronts of buildings collapsed on top of them. Others were trapped as the buildings they were in fell down. Roads and bridges were damaged. Gas and sewage pipes were broken and the quake shut down most of the city's electricity supply.

Rescue teams and soldiers from other parts of the country were immediately sent to Christchurch to help local firefighters search for survivors trapped beneath fallen buildings. Many older buildings were almost totally destroyed and the spire of the 100-year-old cathedral collapsed.

The following day Prime Minister Key announced that at least 65 people had been killed. Mr Key said the earthquake 'may be New Zealand's darkest day'. By 24th February the number of people confirmed to have died had risen to 98. This number is expected to increase as over 200 people are still missing. Many people whose houses were damaged have had to move into shelters organised by local officials in undamaged schools, sports halls and other large buildings.



*The earthquake-damaged spire of Christchurch's cathedral*

During the earthquake some of the ground 'turned to liquid'. This is known as liquefaction. Earthquakes can cause liquefaction where there are sandy soils. If the soil contains a lot of water the violent shaking can cause the soil to lose all its 'strength'. It is pushed upwards and appears as a muddy liquid on the surface. As the soil liquefies, buildings on it can easily topple or lean over at unsafe angles.

Soon after the earthquake struck, several other countries, including Australia, the USA, Taiwan, Japan, and the UK, sent specially trained teams to New Zealand to help with the rescue work. ■

## NOKIA AND MICROSOFT

On 11th February the bosses of the Nokia and Microsoft companies announced a new partnership. The two companies have decided to work together to produce a new type of smart mobile phone.

Nokia is an international company with around 132,000 employees. Its headquarters are in Finland. The company is over 100 years old and it used to make many different things. However, in the 1980s it became one of the first companies to start making mobile phone handsets.



Today it still sells more mobile phone handsets than any other company in the world. It's thought that of all the phones sold worldwide last year 31% were made by Nokia. Yet this figure was once higher, and it is continuing to decrease. One reason is that Nokia has found it difficult to make smart phones, which are becoming more and more popular.

Apple was the first company to make a successful smart phone. Since then other companies such as Motorola and Samsung have produced them. Yet unlike Apple these companies make only the handsets. For operating systems, or the software on the phone, both Motorola and Samsung use the Android Mobile Phone operating system, which is made by Google.

Nokia has designed its own smart phone software called MeeGo. This took the company a long time to develop. Yet Nokia smart phones using its MeeGo software have not sold very well. It seems that most buyers

of smart phones prefer those made by Apple, using its own software (called iOS), or Motorola and Samsung, that use Google's Android.



Last September the boss of Nokia was replaced. The company's new boss is Stephen Elop, a Canadian who once worked for Microsoft. He is the first boss of Nokia who does not come from Finland. After spending five months in his new job Mr Elop decided the company's lack of a bestselling smart phone would cause problems in the future.

Microsoft is one of the world's most successful companies. It's thought that over 95% of all the computers in the world use Microsoft software. Yet despite its success Microsoft has been slow to set up successful mobile and internet-based products. Many people now think it is too far behind other companies such as Google to compete.

Last year Microsoft launched its own mobile phone operating system called Windows Phone 7. It then had to persuade mobile phone handset makers to use its new smart phone software. By doing this it was competing directly against Google's Android.

At Nokia Mr Elop had to make a decision. He either had to improve Nokia's own MeeGo operating system, or give up trying to make smart phone software altogether. In this case Nokia would continue to make smart phone handsets and use either Google's or Microsoft's mobile operating systems.

In the end Mr Elop decided to set up an alliance, or partnership,

with his old company Microsoft. Not everyone working for Nokia in Finland was happy about the news. Some expect they may now lose their jobs, especially those working on the MeeGo software.

Steve Bulmer, the boss of Microsoft, says he is very pleased his company has been able to arrange the partnership with Nokia. He says it means many more people are now likely to use smart phones that run Microsoft's Windows Phone 7 mobile operating system. ■

## ELECTION IN UGANDA

On 20th February officials in Uganda announced Yoweri Museveni has been re-elected president for a fourth five-year term in a row. The presidential election was held in the country two days earlier.

Eight people stood for president in the election. Mr Museveni won 68% of the votes. Kizza Besigye came second with 26%. This was the third time that Mr Besigye has lost to Mr Museveni.



Yoweri Museveni, president of Uganda

In the early 1970s, Uganda was taken over by Idi Amin, who ruled the country as a dictator. Killings were frequent and many people lived in fear. The dictatorship was overthrown in 1979 and several other leaders took over. In 1985, a rebel, or guerrilla, army led by Mr



## NewsCAST

**THE WRONG SPEECH** — A senior official from India was surprised when a few people began to laugh at a speech he was making at the United Nations (UN), in the USA. The reason for the laughter was that he was giving the wrong speech. The speech he was reading was that of an official from Portugal. The Indian official did not realise what he was doing until an assistant stopped him. Some politicians in India say the official has embarrassed their country and should resign. Yet he claims it was an easy mistake to make, as so many papers were spread out in front of him.

Museveni deposed the last leader. Mr Besigye was in the same army. Mr Museveni became Uganda's president. However, he did not allow elections to be held until the mid-1990s.

At first Uganda's constitution, or rules by which a country is governed, stated a president could only be elected for two successive five-year terms. Yet after his second election victory, Mr Museveni managed to get this rule changed. Now there is no limit to how many times a president may be re-elected. Mr Museveni, now aged 67, has already led his country for 25 years. He may even decide to stand for another five-year period when the next election is held in 2016.

Mr Besigye says voting in Uganda is unfair and that in the past votes had been counted incorrectly. At the last election a court in the country agreed with him. Yet it said that the number of votes miscounted had been too small to make a difference to the final result so nothing was done about it.

At this election Mr Besigye complained that many people had been given money, or bribed, to vote for Mr Museveni. Some foreign observers agreed. Observers are people sent from other countries to monitor, or check, that elections are free and fair. They said they had seen some of Mr Museveni's supporters handing out money. One said he had even watched as Mr Museveni himself had given out money. Mr Besigye and other opponents said this money belonged to the country and should not be used in this way.

Although there were complaints about the election many people, especially in rural areas, support President Museveni. This, political experts believe, is mostly because he has managed to keep the peace in the country after the terrible things that happened in the 1970s and early 1980s. Also, unlike some other leaders who have been in power for a long time, he has not built up a large personal fortune for himself and his family.

Mr Besigye said he will not complain to the court again, as it did nothing to challenge the election result last time. Instead he says he plans to organise street protests in Kampala, the capital city. Mr Museveni insists these will not be allowed to take place. ■

## MIGRANTS COME TO ITALY

On 19th February officials from the European Union (EU) announced that Frontex teams would be sent to parts of Italy.

Italy is an EU member. Silvio Berlusconi, the country's prime minister, recently requested help in trying to process thousands of people arriving on the small Italian island of Lampedusa from Tunisia.

Frontex is an organisation set up by EU member countries in 2005. Its headquarters are in Warsaw, the capital of Poland. Frontex's job is to assist all EU member countries with their external border controls and to help to train their own border guards.

Lampedusa is one of a group of small islands, called the Pelagie Islands, in the Mediterranean Sea. Although they are only about 113 kilometres (70 miles) from Tunisia, the islands belong to Italy. About 6,000 people live on Lampedusa.



At the beginning of January there were many street protests and demonstrations in Tunisia. The protesters were angry with the president and his political party, which had ruled the country for over 20 years. During the demonstrations law and order broke down in some places. Items were stolen from shops and some prisoners managed to escape.

Eventually the president fled the country. Other members of his family have now been imprisoned and accused of dishonesty and corruption. Soon after the president left Tunisia those who took over the running of the country announced that new elections would be held within six months.

Since the protests, over 5,000 people from Tunisia have arrived on Lampedusa. More are arriving every day. Italian coastguards have picked many up from small boats.

It has been difficult for Italian officials to find places where everyone can go. Many of the migrants admit they want to go to live and look for work in France. Tunisia is a former French colony, and most people in the country are able to speak French.

Italy suspects some of the migrants may be escaped prisoners trying to get away from Tunisia. Others may be people who are worried about punishment for things they did in the past when the former president was in charge. The remainder are probably people who want to get away from the turmoil in Tunisia and live in an EU member country. Officials say the Frontex teams will help with interviewing everyone.

Some of the migrants have been moved to specially built camps in Sicily and other parts of Italy. Prime Minister Berlusconi said he hopes the new leaders in Tunisia will soon stop people trying to leave their country and illegally move to the EU. ■

## PROTESTS IN BAHRAIN

Crowds began gathering in Pearl Square, an area in the city of Manama, the capital of Bahrain, on 14th February. Copying what had recently happened in Tunisia and Egypt, the protesters said they too want democracy.

Bahrain is a small Arab country made up of a group, or archipelago, of islands in the Persian Gulf, close to Saudi Arabia. It has a population of just over one million.

The country is a constitutional monarchy. This means Bahrain's king, Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifa, is the head of state, and the country has a parliament.

However, the protesters say the parliament does not represent all the people. Many of its members are appointed, or chosen by the king, and not elected. For example, the prime minister, Prince Khalifa, has never been elected. He is related to the king and has been prime minister for over 40 years. The protesters say they still want Bahrain to be a constitutional monarchy, but want a democratically elected parliament and prime minister.



The demonstrators say they are also angry about religious discrimination in the country. There are two main religious groups in Bahrain. Roughly 70% of the population are Shia Muslims and 30% are Sunni Muslims. The King and his family are Sunnis. The protesters say Shias in Bahrain are not able to join the police or the army and cannot get senior jobs working for the government. Many young Shias find it difficult to find work. Some complain Sunnis from other countries have been invited to come to Bahrain and are given good jobs. Many people in the police force and army are originally from other Arab countries.

Not all the people protesting in Pearl Square are Shias. Both Shias and Sunnis complain that some senior ministers are dishonest and corrupt. They claim these people often demand bribes, or illegal gifts of money, when dealing with others.

Bahrain's police used tear gas and large sticks, called batons, to break up the protests in Pearl Square. One protester was killed. Hundreds of people attended his funeral, which was held the next day. But to the surprise of many, the police attacked the funeral procession.

The protesters began to set up tents in Pearl Square. They said they would stay until their demands were met. Then, on the following day, in the early hours of the morning, soldiers and army tanks were sent to the Square. They fired on the protesters. Several were killed and many injured. Many people in other countries were shocked at what had happened.

Senior ministers in Bahrain claimed many of the protesters were armed with knives and swords. Yet the demonstrators insisted their protest was peaceful. The army and police were ordered to leave the Square and thousands of protesters moved back and began setting up their tents again.



King Hamad of Bahrain

King Hamad has apologised for the killings of the protesters. He promised an investigation into the

deaths would be carried out. The king has also agreed there would be changes to the way members of parliament are elected in the future.

The protests in Bahrain have caused difficulties for other countries, especially the USA and the UK. Both countries usually agree with groups that want democracy and free and fair elections. Yet the USA and the UK have traditionally supported the royal family in Bahrain. The USA has a large military headquarters in the country where many of its navy ships are based. Much of the military equipment, such as planes and tanks, used by the Bahraini air force and army is made by companies from the UK. ■

## FLEA JUMP

Scientists in the UK are doing research that they hope will improve the way modern machines move and use energy. As part of their research they have used an unusual model: the flea.

Fleas are parasites. They live on the skin of other animals. Their

mouthparts are able to pierce through the skin and suck blood. Different types of flea are found on different animal species – for example, cats and dogs, birds, and bats. Flea bites can itch. This is because of the fleas' saliva. Some people and animals can have an [allergic](#) reaction to flea bites.

The insects' bodies can even survive being squashed. They are also covered in spiky hairs. These help them stay on the animal on whose blood they feed.

The largest fleas can be three millimetres (0.1 inches) long. They don't have wings, but can travel long dis-

tances by jumping. To do this, the fleas use their long back legs. An adult flea can travel a distance of 30 centimetres (12 inches) in one jump. Compared with its body size, the flea is one of the world's best jumpers. If the insect were scaled up to the size of an average human, it would be able to jump around 400 metres (1,310 feet).

Scientists already know something about how fleas manage to jump so far compared with their body length. Rather than using muscles, the flea's back legs have a spring-like structure that [propels](#) them forwards.

The researchers studied fleas under powerful microscopes. They noticed the insects have long spines, or thin spikes, around their feet. The researchers think these are used to dig in to the surface on which the flea is standing, to boost the ability of the spring to push the flea forwards.

Then the researchers filmed the fleas jumping. By slowing down the films they were able to watch how the fleas' spring action worked. One thing that amazed the researchers was how quickly fleas accelerated when jumping. One researcher said the gravitational force on a flea as it takes off is 100G – 100 times the regular force of gravity.

When a space shuttle takes off, the astronauts inside are subject to 3G. A human body could not survive a force of 100G. Yet the flea's body has that difficult-to-squash, hard shell-like casing, so it can withstand the force.



Artist's impression of a flea

The researchers say they have a lot yet to learn about fleas. However, one day they hope to use their research to create man-made structures that copy some of the tiny insects' amazing abilities. ■

## COCA-COLA'S SECRET REVEALED?

A recent radio programme broadcast in the USA claimed to have [revealed](#) one of the world's most famous secrets – the formula, or recipe, used to make Coca-Cola.

Coca-Cola – also known as Coke – is the world's biggest-selling fizzy drink. It was first sold in 1886, in the state of Georgia, in the USA. John Pemberton invented the drink as a type of medicine. By 1895 it had become so popular that it was sold throughout America.

As it was a medicine the drink was first sold in chemists' shops. At the time people believed carbonated,

## NewsCAST

**LARRY MOVES IN** — 10 Downing Street, in London, is the home of the UK's prime minister. Now the house has a new four-year-old resident with a very important job. Recently, a television camera outside the house filmed a rat walking along the street. So Larry the cat has moved into 10 Downing Street to make sure the prime minister's house is free from rodents. David Cameron, the UK's prime minister, and his family adopted Larry from a London rescue home for stray cats and dogs.



or fizzy, water, was very healthy. They were told the drink could help to cure several different illnesses including headaches and indigestion. The drink contained caffeine and even a very tiny amount of cocaine. When Coca-Cola was invented cocaine was used as a painkiller and was not an illegal drug as it is today. By 1903 cocaine had been removed from the drink's recipe. Yet leaves of the coca leaf plant, from which the drug is made, were still used to add flavour to the drink.

Coca-Cola is made as a concentrate, or syrup. This syrup is the same all over the world. It is made in the USA and then sent to Coca-Cola bottling factories in different countries. At the factories the syrup is mixed with filtered water to create the drink, which is then put into bottles and cans. The recipe for the Coca-Cola syrup is a closely guarded secret.

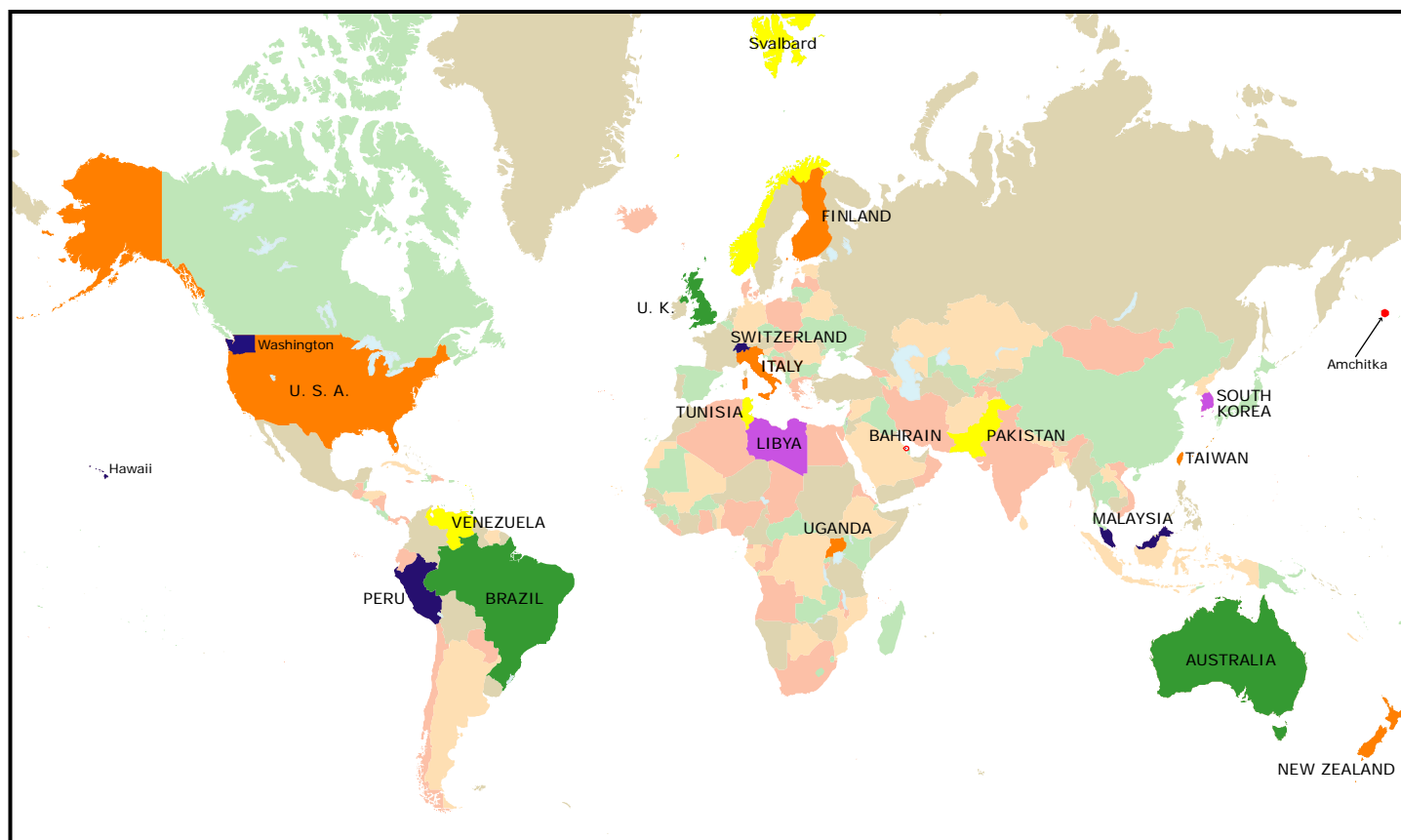
The concentrate is known to contain sugar, carbonated water, caramel colouring, and caffeine. But the secret part is a formula of natural flavourings known as Merchandise 7X.



As Coca-Cola is such a popular drink its secret formula has become something of a legend. It's rumoured that only a few top bosses at the company are allowed to know what's in the formula, which is kept locked up in a bank safe. However, many people claim the story has been made up by the company as a way to show other types of cola drinks will never be the same as Coca-Cola.

The presenter of the radio broadcast said the people who made the show had discovered a photograph from a 1979 newspaper. The picture shows a page of an old notebook. Writing on the page lists what's in the Coca-Cola syrup and the ingredients for Merchandise 7X. It's claimed the notebook belonged to someone who had been a friend of John Pemberton, the company's founder.

The ingredients listed in the notebook include alcohol, and the oils of oranges, lemons, nutmeg, coriander, neroli (made from the blossom of a type of orange tree) and cinnamon. However, experts say even if you tried to use these ingredients to make a fizzy drink, it wouldn't be the same as Coca-Cola. This, they explain, is because the recipe for the drink has changed since it was first invented over 120 years ago.



After the radio programme was broadcast officials from the Coca-Cola Company said people were welcome to try making a drink using the recipe listed in the notebook... but warned they will find it doesn't taste like real Coke. ■

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

At the beginning of February, students arrived in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, to take part in the Model United Nations (MUN).

Countries around the world host their own MUN events. They are held to help young people learn more about countries and their different political systems, and how United Nations (UN) member countries work together. MUNs are also a way of learning what international UN diplomats do and what their jobs include.



MUN in Pakistan

At a MUN event those taking part are allocated a country to represent at the model General Assembly. The General Assembly is the meeting held at the UN's headquarters in New York City, in the USA, attended by all UN member countries.

For a model General Assembly the MUN diplomats attending learn about their allocated country's politics and social systems. They also discuss things such as how aid money should be spent. Twenty

countries were represented at the Islamabad MUN event.

One person is also chosen to be the Secretary-General of the MUN. He or she makes an opening speech. This is similar to the real UN where the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, makes a speech at the start of each General Assembly.

The diplomats representing each country drew maps, charts and tables with facts and figures on the country. They also made food and wore clothes to represent the country's history and heritage. Judges marked their displays and interviewed the students on their knowledge and understanding of their allocated country.

The organisers of the MUN in Islamabad say events like these help young people learn about current affairs and international news. They also say they encourage young people from different countries to understand each other and work together.

In May a special MUN website will be launched. Young people from all countries will be able to take part in a huge [forum](#) called WYMUN – the World Youth MUN. ■

## NEW NINTH PLANET?

Some astrophysicists – scientists who study the stars and planets – say their mathematical calculations show a huge planet should exist at the edge of our own Solar System. Now all they have to do is prove it... and find it.

Our Solar System has eight planets that orbit the Sun. For many years we've been taught that there were nine. Yet in 2006 Pluto, the smallest and most distant from the Sun, was reclassified as a 'dwarf planet'. This was because it has a mass smaller than that of our own Moon.

There are a lot of things orbiting our Sun other than planets. Some are large chunks of ice, dust and rock particles, which we call comets. Comets have elliptical orbits – rather like a squashed circle. The furthest reaches of their orbits extend far into the outer Solar System.

We can sometimes see these comets when they come closer to the Sun. They then go so far away they cannot be seen any more. As these comets' orbits can take hundreds of years to complete, they are known as long-period comets.



Long-period comet

Long-period comets are thought to come from a huge sphere, made up of billions of objects, called the Oort cloud. This is at the very edge of our Solar System. It's thought the Sun's gravitational pull can 'tip' objects out of the Oort cloud and make them begin falling into their elliptical orbits. They then become long-period comets. The Oort cloud is many hundreds of times further from the Sun than the Earth is.

Yet now some scientists say the angle of some long-period comets' orbits is 'wrong' for this theory. They think the orbits must be affected by something else big enough to have a gravitational pull on them. This is why they believe there must be another huge planet – perhaps four times the mass of Jupiter, the largest planet in our Solar System – out there. Some think

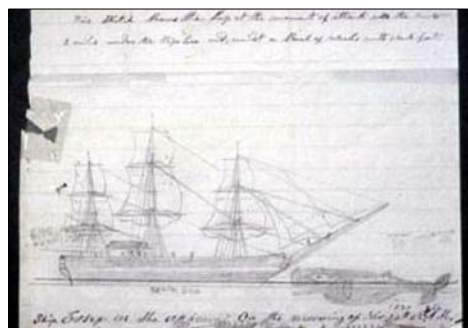
it may even be a very dim type of star.

For the last year a NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) telescope called WISE has been scanning the entire sky. NASA scientists will receive the telescope's first images in April. WISE stands for Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

If the planet is there, it may still be warm enough to have a faint infrared glow. So the WISE telescope may have already scanned it. Yet it could take several years to study all of WISE's images. So it could be as long as two years before it can be confirmed whether a new ninth planet really exists. ■

## MOBY-DICK CAPTAIN'S SHIP FOUND

A shipwreck has been discovered on a coral reef in the warm waters off the island chain of Hawaii, in the Pacific Ocean. Archaeologists claim the wreck has a special historic [significance](#).



Drawing by one of the crew of the *Essex* of the whale attack

The wrecked ship dates to the 1820s. Most of the wooden parts of the ship have broken up, or disintegrated. Yet divers say a lot of the contents of the ship have survived. These include metal hooks, cauldrons, and harpoons. A harpoon is a long spear used in whale fishing. The wreck, say archaeologists,

is that of a whaling ship called the *Two Brothers*.

The *Two Brothers* had a very unlucky captain. Called George Pollard, he had also been the captain of the *Essex*, another whaling ship, which also sank.

In 1819 the *Essex* left Nantucket, on the north east coast of the USA, on a voyage to catch whales. At the time Nantucket was the largest whaling port in the world. The following year, in the South Pacific Ocean, the *Essex* was hit by a large sperm whale. It's thought the whale attacked the ship because the men were trying to harpoon members of its pod, or family. The whale rammed the *Essex* twice. It caused so much damage that the ship sank.

Captain Pollard and his 20 sailors had to escape in three small whaleboats. They lacked water and food. Several died. The others resorted to [cannibalism](#) to survive. The men were rescued over 90 days after their ship sank, but there were only eight survivors.

As well as surviving the *Essex* sinking, Captain Pollard also survived the sinking of the *Two Brothers*. This ship hit a coral reef and sank in 1823. After this Captain Pollard only made one more sea voyage before he gave up the sea altogether.

One survivor of the *Essex* wrote about what happened. The account was read by another whaler and resident of Nantucket, Herman Melville. He also met Captain Pollard. Later, Melville wrote a now-famous novel called *Moby-Dick*. Published in 1851, it tells the story of a sea captain obsessed with hunting down a giant white sperm whale nicknamed Moby-Dick. In the novel the huge white whale eventu-

ally rams and sinks Captain Ahab's ship. Many people think this part is based on what had happened to the *Essex*.

Whaling historians are excited by the discovery of the wreck of the *Two Brothers*. One, who has written books about Captain Pollard, says it helps to remind people that stories like the one in *Moby-Dick* happened to real people in history. ■

## HYDROELECTRIC DAM IN BRAZIL

At the beginning of February around 200 protestors gathered outside the government buildings in Brasília, the capital of Brazil. They delivered a [petition](#) to the government, signed by 600,000 people who disagree with the building of a new hydroelectric dam.



The Belo Monte Dam will be built on the River Xingu near Altamira, in the northern state of Pará, in the Amazon rainforest. The Xingu is one of many rivers that flow into the River Amazon. When completed the hydroelectric dam will be the third-largest in the world.

The Brazilian government announced it had approved the building of the dam just over a year ago. Yet an environmental organisation was asked to assess, or check on, how the dam would affect nearby areas. In January the environmental



organisation agreed the dam could be built and the area surrounding it cleared to prepare for the work to begin.

Brazil is a large country with a fast-growing economy. The government claims the new dam is needed to make electricity for new homes, businesses and factories. When finished the hydroelectric dam is expected to generate enough electricity for at least 23 million homes.

The dam will create a large reservoir, or man-made lake. The government calculates the lake will cover or flood roughly 500 square kilometres (193 square miles) of forestland. This would mean about 1,000 people will have to move.

However, those who don't want the dam to be built disagree with the government's calculations. They claim the lake will flood 4,000 square kilometres (1,540 square miles) and that as many as 40,000 people will lose their homes.

The Kayapo tribe has led the protests against the building of the dam. The Kayapo are an indigenous tribal people who live in the forests where the dam will be built. They claim it will not only destroy their river and jungle but also their way of life. Tribal leaders say they and their ancestors have lived in the area for thousands of years.

The Kayapo also believe the government is not telling the truth about how much electricity the dam will generate. The tribal leaders argue it will be lower. This is because there is a dry season for about four months every year. During this time, they say, the river level is low so the dam will not produce so much electricity.

Some environmental groups are also unhappy about the building of

the dam. They insist the dam and its reservoir will damage the habitat of hundreds of plant, animal and fish species. Yet the government argues that a hydroelectric dam will cause much less pollution than many other methods of generating energy, such as burning oil, gas and coal, which are all fossil fuels.

The government has announced that everyone who has to move will receive a payment, or compensation. Building work on the Belo Monte Dam is expected to be finished in 2015. ■

## PURPLE HIJAB DAY

On 12th February, some people in the USA wore purple as a symbol to show they were thinking about victims of domestic violence.

In particular, many Muslim women wore purple head coverings, called hijabs. The day, which was marked on 13th February for the first time last year, has become known as Purple Hijab Day. In the Islamic religion purple is the colour of mourning.

Purple Hijab Day was first organised by a group of Muslim women in the USA. The colour purple was chosen to represent domestic violence and the hijab to represent the Muslim community. The phrase 'domestic violence' is used to describe violence or abuse that takes place between family members within their homes.

This year the date of Purple Hijab Day was the anniversary of the death of Aasiya Hassan in 2009. With her husband, she founded the first Muslim television channel in the USA. Recently

## NewsCAST

**SPEED KILLS** — The 45 residents of the town of Speed, in Australia, have agreed to do something to improve road safety. The town is in a rural area and, officials say, drivers often drive much too fast on the local roads. The townspeople were asked by the local government road accident group to change the name of their town - from 'Speed' to 'SpeedKills'. Everyone agreed. So the town will be known as SpeedKills for one month while the local government campaigns to stop motorists from driving too fast. Officials hope towns in other areas with similar names will also join in with the campaign.

Aasiya's husband was found guilty of her murder.

Domestic violence, experts say, can be directed at both men and women. Yet it is most often aimed at women and children. It can be physical, such as hitting and beating. It can also be emotional, such as making threats or being intimidating to make someone afraid for his or her safety.

It is meant to enable one person to gain power or control over another.

Muslims in America were asked to observe a minute of silence on 12th February to remember the 11 reported deaths – nine women and two men – of Muslims believed to have been victims of domestic violence. Organisers also said many cases of domestic violence are never fully investigated, so the number of deaths may be higher.

Another thing represented by Purple Hijab Day, say supporters, is challenging stereotypes. One



Purple hijab

event's organiser says too often one incident of violence in a Muslim home leads people to think it is common to Muslims as a group. And, she says, some people believe the hijab that many Muslim women wear shows that they are oppressed.

Another supporter said while it is important to admit that domestic violence does take place in Muslim homes it also happens within families of all religions in many different countries.

One organisation that took part in this year's Purple Hijab Day is a group called Muslim Men Against Domestic Abuse. This group asked religious leaders to give one sermon, or khutba, during the month that would make people more aware of the problems of domestic violence. ■

## PRESERVING POTATOES

Farmers in Peru have decided to send seeds of over 1,500 different types of potatoes to the Global Seed Vault, in Norway. This vault has been designed to protect seeds from both man-made and natural disasters.



Entrance to the Global Seed Vault, in Norway  
(courtesy of Mari Tefre)

Potatoes originally came from the highlands around the Andes Mountains, in South America. Europeans took them to other countries

after they first began to travel to South America over 450 years ago. Today potatoes are grown all over the world. They are now the world's fourth-largest food crop after rice, wheat and maize (known as corn in some countries).

The Global Seed Vault was first opened in 2008. Nicknamed the Doomsday vault, it was built on Svalbard, an archipelago, or group of islands, midway between Norway and the North Pole. The vault has been dug into the side of the mountain and is over 60 metres (197 feet) above the level of the sea. It has been designed so all the seeds inside would survive a major disaster such as a nuclear war, meteor strike, or sudden climate change.



Sample potatoes from the Andes

If any of these events were to happen, large areas of the world could be affected. Certain types of plants might be completely destroyed. These plants could then be re-grown from the seeds kept in the Svalbard vault. Rooms in the vault are kept at a very low temperature. It's thought that some of the seeds kept inside could even be re-grown after a period of hundreds of years. The vault is big enough to store the seeds of 4.5 million plants – most of the food plants that grow in the world.

Countries that place seeds in the vault may do so without having to pay any money. They can also collect some of them at any time they wish to.

In the past many countries have set up their own seed vaults, or seed banks. Some of these have been damaged by war or natural events such as floods or earthquakes.

More countries are now deciding to use the Svalbard vault. For example, on 16th February many different types of seeds from Australia were placed in the Global Seed Vault for the first time. Australia has its own banks where seeds are kept (called genebanks). Yet some Australian scientists worry that due to a lack of money they are not looked after as well as they should be. The decision was therefore made to put the seeds in the vault on Svalbard as well.

The potato seeds from Peru are being sent to the Global Seed Vault from the Cusco Potato Park. Local potato farmers set up this park as a way of helping to protect this source of food. Over 4,000 different types of potato grow in the Andes region. Yet some farmers say certain types are at risk of being lost due to climate change, disease and flooding. So by sending these seeds to Svalbard the farmers know it will always be possible to re-grow them in the future. ■

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**Editor:** Amber Thody

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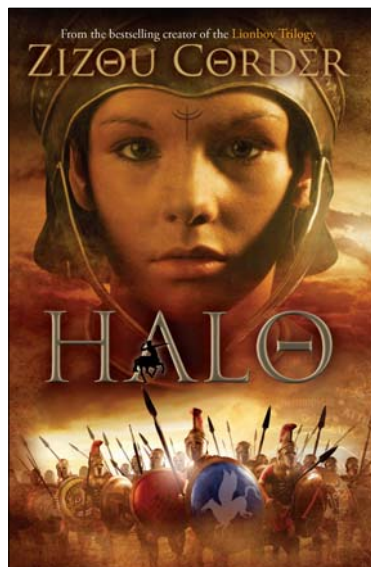
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## B O O K R E V I E W

### HAVE YOU READ ...?



This story is of ancient Greece, during the times of the warriors of Sparta, the Hoplites, and of mythical Centaurs – beasts that are half-man and half-horse. It is also a story of an impossible love, between a young man from a totally intolerant culture and a young woman who has realised that to be free she must cast off her femininity. Lastly, and most importantly, it is a story about a quest to discover oneself.

The Centaurs of Zakynthos, Greece, are a peaceful, compassionate, fun-loving, yet secretive group. When one of their tribe stumbles across a human baby washed up on the shore it takes them only one evening of dancing and singing in celebration to unanimously vote on a law regarding the baby: Orphans must be adopted and raised as one of their own! I wish ancient human societies all had been that sensible. While reading this book I was often reminded of our terrible ancient history, and of how some societies during those times regarded other people as property!

That night the Centaurs decide the baby's name will be Halosydne, a lucky name – Halo for short. They teach her to read and write letters and numbers, and about the Greek gods and culture. She is the only human in the pack of Centaurs, and has never met another human. Then one day, after her 11th 'finding day' (the anniversary of the date on which the Centaurs discovered her) Halo is swimming along the beach in some caves when some fishermen spot her. They quickly tie her up and sell her off into slavery. And so begins the epic story of Halo.

Halo quickly learns the hard way that Ancient Greek society is not a fun place for any girl to be. After her first few escapes from slavery, she quickly learns it's better to be a boy, because boys can move about more freely. Initially, her goal is simple: to return home to the Centaurs. Unfortunately, she has already been

transported far from her home island by boat to the mainland, so she will have to survive in human lands while she finds her way back home.

The story has a great start and the momentum keeps building throughout. For example, later on in the story Halo starts to take control of her own fate. At first it begins with a boy-like haircut, but eventually she is forced to make more complicated choices. For example, does she admit to her true family that she is a girl? Then she risks an arranged marriage. Does she continue the deception as a boy and become a doctor? The choices are clear, but the consequences are hard to imagine and each choice leads her into more and more dangerous areas of Greek society. Eventually, she becomes a true hero(ine!), a horse-riding combat archer, a healer, and much more!

I found myself often a little confused at where this book was taking me. The author had me guessing and revising my guesses at almost every chapter. For instance, at about the time when I had given up on her ever finding the Centaurs, she makes a quick trip to visit them, but by then her goals have changed, and she has other much more pressing concerns. So Halo sets off again on her next quest.

I strongly recommend this book for readers aged nine and up, or for anyone who would like a little glimpse into how Greek society probably was during the dark ages of human history.

*Halo* by Zizou Corder. Puffin Books UK

*Reviewed by* **Chris Tarn**

### WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

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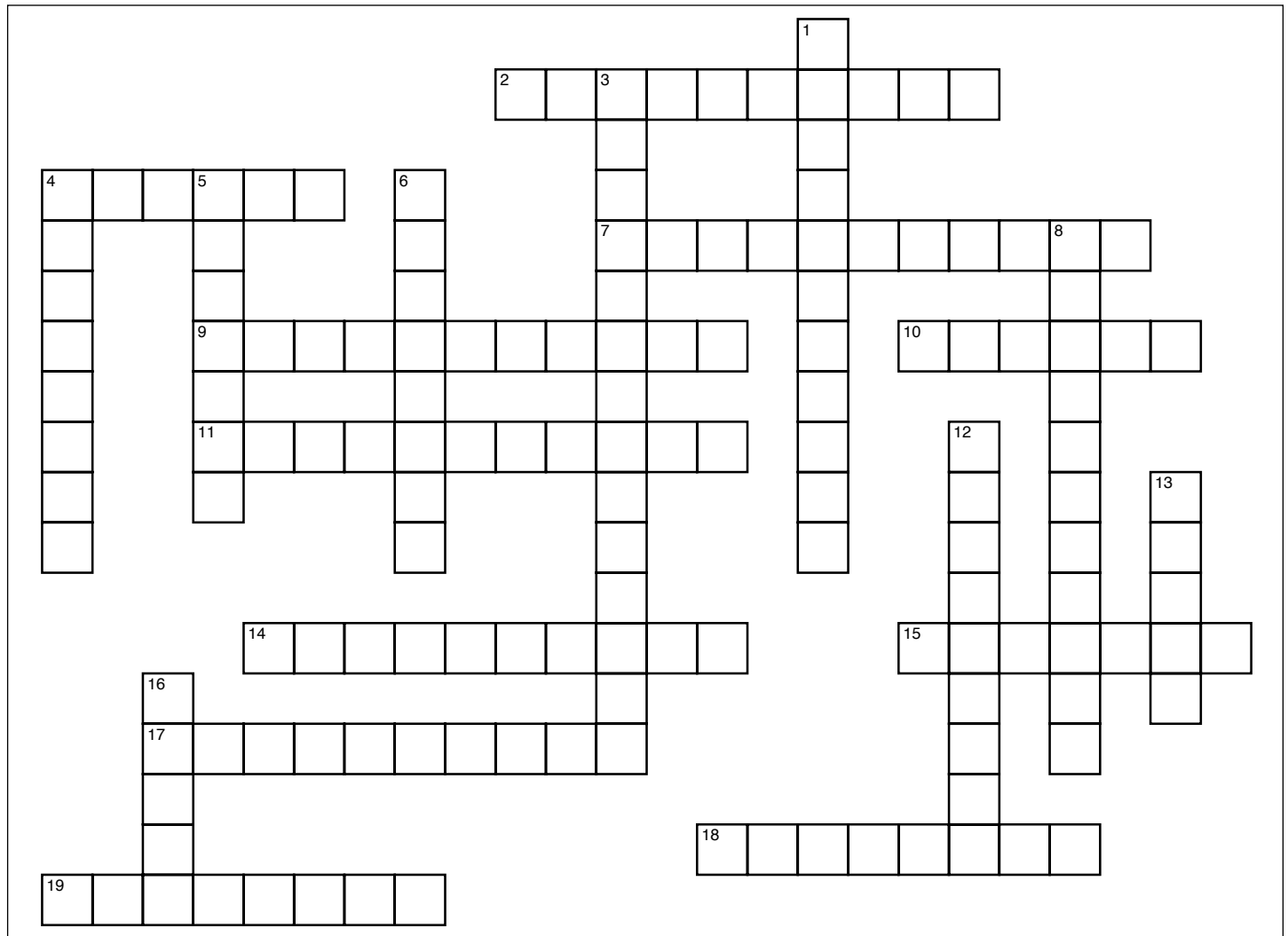
Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.



# ISSUE 139

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



### Across

- 2 Adjective** Originating in or native to a particular country  
**4 Noun** Someone who suffers death or hardship for his or her beliefs  
**7 Noun** Eating human flesh, or an animal eating its own kind  
**9 Noun (Plural)** Soldiers who will fight for any army if they are paid to do so  
**10 Verb** To leave a country or organisation for an opposing one  
**11 Noun** Stomach pain or ill feeling caused by not being able to digest food properly  
**14 Adjective** To do with business or trade  
**15 Verb** Drives or pushes forward  
**17 Noun** Bullets, bombs or rockets that can be fired from a weapon  
**18 Verb** To discharge the solid waste that comes out of your body  
**19 Noun** A formal written request signed by many people

### Down

- 1 Adverb** Describes a decision or vote where there has been complete agreement among all the people involved  
**3 Noun** When a person or people are treated differently or unfairly because of who they are  
**4 Noun** Sadness felt because someone has died  
**5 Noun** Confusion, uncertainty or lack of order  
**6 Adjective** Very sensitive to something that might make you ill  
**8 Noun (Plural)** Characteristics or oversimplified ideas considered to represent a particular kind of person  
**12 Noun** A member of a small, unofficial army who fights by making surprise attacks  
**13 Noun** A spoon-shaped item with a long handle, used to transfer liquids  
**16 Noun** A room with a strong door and thick walls, used to store money or valuable things, especially in a bank

# Issue 139

## GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

D E F E C A T E I N D I G E N O U S  
 E I Y R L I Y D I T J P C I H M J T  
 F T S U U G Y L S U O M I N A N U E  
 E U K C L M G Q T O G S Z L Z M V R  
 C R L K R M K U T H K X U A Q W K E  
 T M F N O I T S E G I D N I U B R O  
 T O X O O Z M R S N O I T I T E P T  
 J I P C Z I B I V Q C Q F S N J V Y  
 L L V A O B T R N A B S L E P O R P  
 C M R A K N F I N A R E L D A L I E  
 I A O P L H Z N N J T Y B R O Q A S  
 G R L U A L I U G U R I D V A U L T  
 R T J J R B I G K E M Z O L R E I U  
 E Y H H A N I R X B M M R N B J M L  
 L R Y L I U I S R D Y X A X U J I U  
 L D I J U G W N U E K K E I D Y E D  
 A S O R I M F M G O U X P K R A B M  
 M E R C E N A R I E S G W P W U Z J

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

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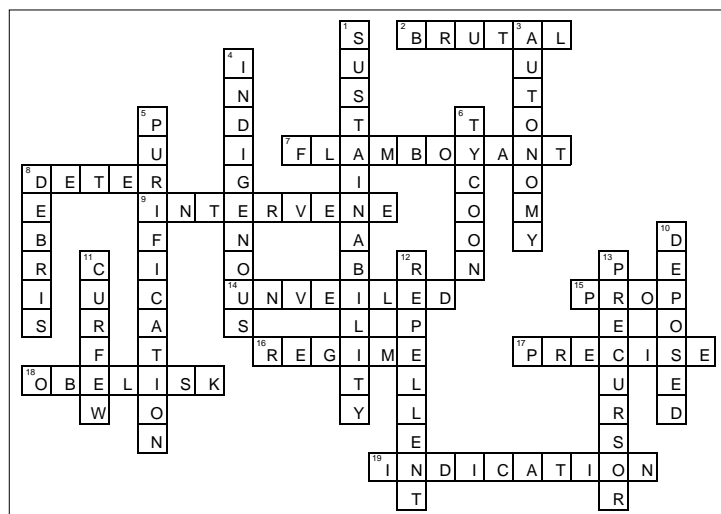


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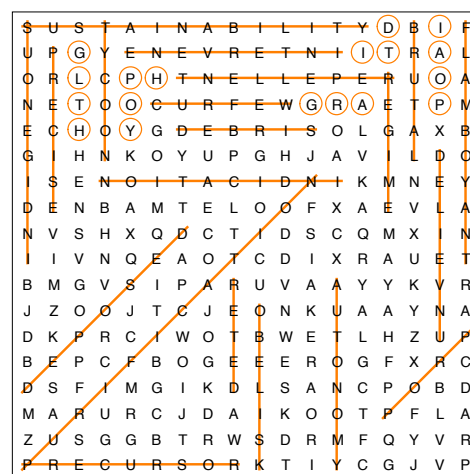
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If you wish to earn additional Demics log in to [www.newsademic.com](http://www.newsademic.com), go to the Prize Competitions area and submit the missing word. Puzzle entries must be submitted by 10 pm on 9th March 2011 (GMT/UTC).\*

MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 138 ANSWERS



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